

## Boston Translates Montgomery County APC's *Flu Prevention and Care Guide* Makes Spanish Version Available to All

The DelValle Institute for Emergency Preparedness provides high quality all-hazards training for public health, healthcare, and public safety personnel in the greater Boston area. The Institute was founded in 2003 and is a program of Boston Emergency Medical Services, a bureau of the Boston Public Health Commission.

Part of the Institute's mission is to provide preparedness education to the community. "Lack of preparedness obviously contributes to worsening the impact of a disaster," says Mea Allen, Senior Program Manager.

"The Institute also provides training to workers in the public health world," Allen says. This workforce includes hospitals, health centers, and long-term care facilities with an emphasis on groups who serve the homeless, the elderly, and vulnerable cultural groups.

During the H1N1 influenza pandemic of 2009-2010, Allen used Montgomery County APC's *Flu Prevention and Care Guide* in her trainings, but with a twist. The Institute translated the *Guide* into Spanish making it more accessible to the people in their community.

The Flu Prevention and Care Guide is a one page educational flyer designed to appeal to a wide audience with pictures and minimal text. It is an educational resource for the general public covering flu prevention, minimizing the spread of flu, and suggesting items that should be collected at home to care for someone who is ill.

In a day-long workshop full of interactive activities, Allen and her colleagues trained public health and community workers in flu prevention, vaccine management and dispensing, and other aspects of pandemic mitigation. This workshop was conducted in the train-the-trainer format to enable the workforce to go into the community and educate the public. The Institute equipped the workforce with copies of the English and Spanish version of *Flu Prevention and Care Guide* to hand out in their communities. The Institute then provided the Spanish translation to Montgomery County, allowing the APC to offer the guide in Spanish to all future users.

"People found the *Flu Prep Guide* helpful," Allen says. When she needs training materials for her public health workforce, "I often go to the APC website. That is one of my frequent stops."

